UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22746
28 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Following consultations with the members of the Security Council, the President of the Council made the following statement, on behalf of the Council, at its 2996th meeting on 28 June 1991, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait":

"The members of the Security Council have learnt with grave concern of an incident which occurred today when the Iraqi military authorities denied a joint IAEA/Special Commission Nuclear Inspection Team immediate and unimpeded access to a site designated for inspection by the Special Commission under paragraphs 9 and 13 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991). In the course of this incident, the Iraqi military did not comply with a request by the Acting Chief Inspector that there should be no movement of transport or equipment pending inspection. The Iraqi military fired small arms into the air when members of the Team were endeavouring to photograph loaded vehicles leaving the site. This incident followed earlier incidents on 23 and 25 June 1991 when the Iraqi military authorities denied the Nuclear Inspection Team access to certain facilities at another designated site.

"On 26 June 1991, the Security Council held a meeting to consider the incidents of 23 and 25 June at which time the Permanent Representative of Iraq confirmed that Iraq had accepted Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and was doing its best to implement all the requirements and obligations imposed on it by the resolution. He further asserted that Iraq was cooperating with all United Nations missions, including the Special Commission. The President subsequently conveyed the Council's serious concern regarding the incidents to the Government of Iraq.

"The members of the Council strongly deplore the incidents of 23, 25 and 28 June, and in this connection condemn the conduct of the Iraqi authorities. All these incidents constitute flagrant violations of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and of the undertakings contained in the exchange of letters between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Foreign Minister of Iraq governing the status, privileges

and immunities of the Special Commission and of the Inspection Teams mandated under the Security Council resolution. Furthermore, these incidents demonstrate Iraq's failure to abide by its solemn undertakings to comply with all the provisions of Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

"The members of the Security Council have decided to ask the Secretary-General to send a high-level mission to Baghdad immediately to meet with the highest levels of the Iraqi Government to convey the Council's urgent demand for unequivocal assurances that the Government will take all necessary measures to ensure that no hindrances are placed in the way of the discharge of the Special Commission's mandate and that it will accord full cooperation, including immediate and unimpeded access, to the inspection teams in compliance with Iraq's obligations and commitments vis-à-vis the United Nations and the IAEA. The members of the Council have also stressed that the Government must furnish the high-level mission with unconditional guarantees for the safety and security of all personnel engaged in the performance of functions in connection with Security Council resolution 687 (1991). The mission, composed of the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission and the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, will depart New York this evening, 28 June 1991.

"At this time, the members of the Council call upon Iraq to grant the IAEA/Special Commission Nuclear Inspection Team currently in Iraq immediate and unimpeded access to the objects which the Team had endeavoured to inspect on 28 June 1991 and any other site deemed necessary.

"The members of the Security Council request the high-level mission to report to it at the earliest opportunity, through the Secretary-General, on the results of its meetings with the highest levels of the Iraqi Government and, in particular, on such further undertakings by the Government to ensure compliance at all levels, including local military and civilian authorities, with Iraq's obligations under Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

"The members of the Council wish to make it clear that the Council remains seized of this matter and that any recurrence of non-compliance would have serious consequences.

"The members of the Council reiterate their views expressed in resolution 687 (1991) of the threat that all weapons of mass destruction pose to peace and security in the Middle East and of the need to work towards the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of such weapons."